

Name _____

The Case of the Spinning Earth

Part 1: Vocabulary Match-Up

Match each term with its correct definition. Write the **letter** of the definition that goes with each term.



Vocabulary Words

Definitions

_____ 1. Axis

A. The imaginary line around the middle of Earth that divides it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

_____ 2. Orbit

B. One of the two days each year when the Sun is at its highest or lowest point in the sky, marking the longest or shortest day of the year.

_____ 3. Equator

C. The invisible line Earth spins around, connecting the North and South Poles.

_____ 4. Solstice

D. The curved path that Earth follows as it travels around the Sun.

_____ 5. Equinox

E. One of the two days each year when day and night are exactly equal in length.

Part 2: Visual Clue Match

Each term below is described. Read the clue and match it to the vocabulary that best fits.

_____ 6. A diagram shows Earth tilted, with one hemisphere receiving the most sunlight.

_____ 7. A diagram shows the Sun directly above the equator, with equal light on both hemispheres.

_____ 8. A globe shows a red horizontal line halfway between the poles.

_____ 9. A model shows Earth following a curved path around the Sun.

_____ 10. An arrow goes through a spinning globe from top to bottom.

Bonus Question: Why do scientists need to understand these terms when studying **seasons**, **climate**, and **day/night patterns**?